

U.S.S.N. 09/560,785

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In the Claims

Please cancel Claims 8-12.

Please amend Claims 1 and 13 as follows.

Please add Claims 17-18.

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Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for purchasing a product comprising the steps of:

providing a communications network having a computer including at least one purchaser and a plurality of suppliers that are each physically and communicatively coupled to the communications network;

identifying a plurality of suppliers;

creating an information template that is queried and dynamically configurable on the computer within the communications network for each of the plurality of suppliers wherein each of the information template specifies

~~specifying~~ a product having at least one and each component disposed within the product;

searching each of the information templates selectively stored within a database for the specified at least one ~~components~~ component disposed within ~~each~~ the product;

identifying at least one supplier from the plurality of suppliers by use of said search;

causing a design file of said product to be created within the communications network by performing the steps of

transmitting at least one computerized design file associated with the at least one ~~each~~ component disposed within said product created from each of said identified

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suppliers from the plurality of suppliers to a purchaser,  
and

selectively using said at least one transmitted  
computerized design file associated with the at least one  
component disposed within said product to create a three  
dimensional prototype of said product; and

purchasing said at least one component disposed within  
the product from said at least one identified supplier from  
the plurality of suppliers.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the  
steps of:

placing certain information on said information template  
of said identified supplier related to the cost of producing  
said product; and

reporting said certain information.

3. (previously amended) The method of Claim 2 further  
comprising the steps of:

storing said three dimensional prototype of said product  
within an associated information template database; and

evaluating said design file before purchasing said  
product.

4. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step  
of:

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creating information relating to the operation of said product; and

placing said information upon said template of said identified supplier.

5. (original) the method of Claim 1 wherein said product is selectively assembled within a vehicle.

6. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said templates are searched over a global computer network.

7. (original) The method of Claim 6 wherein said global computer network comprises the internet.

Claims 8-12 (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A method for purchasing a product comprising the steps of:

providing a communications network having a computer including at least one purchaser and a plurality of suppliers that are each physically and communicatively coupled to the communications network;

fixing attributes of said product having several interconnected components;

decomposing said product into several interconnected components;

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identifying a plurality of suppliers;

creating an information template having a dynamically configurable and searchable field that is queried on the computer within the communications network, wherein the dynamically configurable and searchable field is configured on the computer to specify which specifies a plurality of interrelationship attributes related to a the interrelationship of the several interconnected components of said product associated with for each of said plurality of suppliers and wherein the interrelationship attributes of said components further define the overall function of each of the several interconnected components, each of said information templates further containing information identifying the respective products and components provided by the supplier, a cost of producing each of said respectively provided products and components, and the time required to provide each of said respective products and components; and

searching said information templates in order to identify suppliers of said product and said several interconnected components.

14. (original) The method of Claim 13 further comprising the step of:

identifying at least one supplier of said product by use of said information templates.

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15. (previously presnted) The method of Claim 14 further comprising the step of:

identifying at least one supplier from a plurality of suppliers for each of said several interconnected components by use of said information templates.

16. (previously presented) The method of Claim 13, wherein the step of creating the information template further comprises the step of:

specifying a plurality of attributes related to the interrelationship of the product to other products.

17. (new) The method of Claim 1, wherein the product having the at least one component disposed within the product is used in an automotive vehicle.

18. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the product has a plurality of interconnected components disposed therewithin and wherein the interrelationship of the components are specified within the dynamically configurable information template.